

BLAND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACCOUNTANCY

Avondale University offers four Bland Family Scholarships for Accountancy to students who want to use their interest in accountancy to support the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ELIGIBILITY

The scholarship is available to any new or returning domestic or international student who enrolls in our Bachelor of Business with a major in accounting or in our Master of Business Administration.

VALUE

Each scholarship is worth up to \$8700. A recipient receives \$1450 per unit (accounting only) if enrolled in the Bachelor of Business and \$725 per unit (accounting or otherwise) if enrolled in the Master of Business Administration. Avondale will apply the money to the recipient's tuition account.

CRITERIA

Applicants for the scholarship must:

- Explain why they want to study accounting or business at Avondale;
- Explain how their values align with those of Avondale, and;
- Explain why they want to support the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CONDITIONS

Avondale awards the scholarship at census date subject to a recipient:

- Meeting requirements for admission as an enrolled student in at least three units per semester for an undergraduate course (or, at the discretion of the course convenor, in less than three units) or at least one unit per teaching period for a postgraduate course;

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Recipients of the scholarship must:

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements;
- Maintain an academic status of good standing (for example, students enrolled in four units per semester must pass at least three, students enrolled in three units must pass at least two, and students enrolled in one unit must pass that unit);
- Participate in a donor–recipient acknowledgement process initiated by Avondale, and;
- Maintain good standing in the community. (Scholarships may be revoked at the discretion of the Discipline Committee, where the recipient brings the name of Avondale into disrepute.)

Recipients of the scholarship cannot:

- Redeem the scholarship for cash, or;
- Transfer or defer the scholarship.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicants for the scholarship must:

- Submit the application form by email to abs@avondale.edu.au by January 31 for semester one or July 15 for semester two.

ENQUIRIES

Avondale Business School
Phone: +61 2 4980 2173
Email: abs@avondale.edu.au

DONOR DETAILS

The scholarship is a tribute to the lives and work of Gordon and Ethel Bland.

Gordon and Ethel were born in New Zealand. Before they even met, Gordon and Ethel had something in common, as both their mothers converted to Adventism during their childhood.

Born in Auckland 1919 to Charles and Emily Bland, Gordon Joffre Bland was the younger brother of Sylvia and Maurice. He completed his leaving certificate at 16 years of age and began working for the North New Zealand Conference of the Adventist Church. He proved to be a faithful and hardworking employee, with the conference recognising his acute intellect and sponsoring him to study accounting at Longburn College.

Gordon's first professional appointment was at the Sanitarium Health Food Company factory in Christchurch. He boarded with Mary Baynes, the mother of Ruth, who had been one of his Longburn classmates. Mary's conversion to Adventism and her commitment to paying tithe had led to the breakdown of her marriage. As a solo parent of three daughters and a son, she opened her home to boarders, such as Gordon, to help pay family living expenses.

Gordon won the heart of Ruth's sister, Ethel, and the couple married on November 18, 1941.

Born in Christchurch in 1915, Ethel did not have the advantage of the education Gordon enjoyed. She left school at the end of Grade 6 to work so she could contribute to the household income. Despite her limited education, Ethel would avidly read the Bible, completing her Sabbath School lesson every night.

A constant theme in Gordon and Ethel's lives: following conscience despite it being easier to stay silent. Whether it meant making a call on morality, or giving advice about insurance coverage or cautious action, Gordon and Ethel's life was divined by truth.

Drafted into the military during World War II, Gordon took a stand as a conscientious objector. Newly married, he completed his military service on home soil, rising to Head of Stores in South New Zealand as Staff Sergeant, one of the highest ranks for non-commissioned New Zealand army officers. Gordon transferred from being the accountant in Christchurch to Auckland and then onto Lewisham. He continued his study at night school and, after obtaining further qualifications, accepted a call as Secretary-Treasurer of North New Zealand Conference (1956-1961). He later served as an accountant and teacher at Avondale and Longburn before accepting the role as an auditor for the Australasian Division in 1968. He had become Head Auditor by the time he retired in 1990.

Gordon was a teacher, mentor and advocate. He worked tirelessly to educate and improve conditions in all the areas he served. His advice and service were astute, empirically based and carefully considered. Ethel was always by his side and contributed by working for Sanitarium and at what is now Sydney Adventist Hospital in various departments.

Although they had different personalities and skills, they formed a formidable team. Gordon worked for almost 52 years, and with Ethel's contribution, they provided a combined service of nearly 100 years. Work was more about service rather than the pay. Volunteering was important to them, which included packing Weet-Bix seconds for the Australian Development Relief Agency, taking various roles in their church and helping those in care. Few were ever aware of Gordon and Ethel's generosity because of their self-effacing humility.

Gordon and Ethel adopted three children: Nyvonne, Marjorie and Warwick (the benefactor of this scholarship) and provided them with a loving Christian home. Education was at the forefront of their children's lives, be it in the trades, music or university. Gordon encouraged the children to do their best, to use their strengths to excel, and to live a life of service. From his example, they gained life lessons: to work hard, do the right thing, save their money and invest well. By his actions, Gordon lived the ethos that "Luck is made, it doesn't just happen."

In many ways, Gordon and Ethel belonged to a bygone era. They believed in right and wrong and were committed to following their conscience despite the cost.

In their own quiet way, Gordon and Ethel would be thrilled that through you, as recipient of this scholarship, their legacy lives on. Congratulations on their behalf.—*Marjorie Osborne*

BLAND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACCOUNTANCY APPLICATION FORM

Full Name: _____

Phone (Mobile): _____

Email: _____

Why do you want to study accountancy or business at Avondale?

Explain how your values align with ours—excellence, spirituality, wellbeing, integrity and service.

Why do you want to support the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Provide details of a person who is willing to supply a reference on your behalf.

Full Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Relationship To You: _____

Phone (Mobile): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____